

DATA EXCHANGE BETWEEN A HANDHELD DEVICE AND
ANOTHER COMPUTER SYSTEM USING AN EXCHANGE MANAGER
VIA SYNCHRONIZATION

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ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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A method and electronic system for exchanging data between a handheld device and another computer system. The system allows a data file of any data format and/or any extension to be downloaded, e.g., installed, from one computer system onto a handheld device. In one embodiment, the computer system can be a host computer system, e.g., a personal computer, communicatively coupled to the handheld device using a communication link. The data file is transferred to the handheld device using the install application of a synchronization manager. The transferred file is stored as a digital stream file with its native data encoding. After synchronization, a message is sent to notify the exchange manager about the data file. The exchange manager then uses an application registry to identify the application program that corresponds to the stream file based on the extension of the stream file. The pertinent application program is then invoked and the stream file is dispatched to the application for processing. During processing, the pertinent application then formats the stream file such that the data file becomes a record within the database file that is associated with the pertinent application. Using this mechanism, a user can add records to an application program without requiring a custom conduit program to perform the data exchange. Data flow can also be reversed, from the application program to the host computer so that data files can be installed on the host without requiring a custom conduit program for the pertinent application.